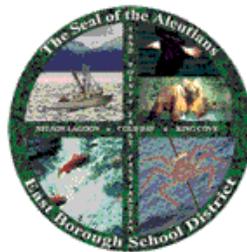
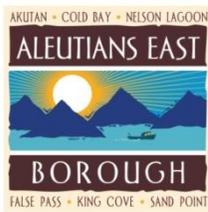


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Cross-Town Rivals King Cove T-Jacks and Sand Point Eagles Battle it out at the State Championship

Final Score: King Cove 44 to Sand Point 41

The King Cove T-Jacks took fourth place in the state basketball championship on Saturday (March 19, 2016) in Anchorage after a hard-fought game with their cross-town rivals, the Sand Point Eagles. Keeping their fans on the edge of the seat until the very end has become familiar territory for the two teams, and the state championship at the Alaska Airlines Center in Anchorage was no exception. In the beginning, King Cove pulled ahead by a wide margin.

“Sand Point is a little sleepy to start,” said radio announcer Karl Pulliam. “King Cove is all over them.”

“We were down 15 to nothing before Anthony Webster actually got our first three-pointer,” said Sand Point Eagles Coach Toby Sargent. “Then we just made a great come-back and chipped away at it until we actually led at one time. Then King Cove took the lead back at the end. Both teams did really well.”



T-Jacks Gary Gould (#30) in a layup. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

by 3 points, with a score of 23 to 20.

During the third quarter, the tug of war continued.

“King Cove is now exerting its control and tempo on the ball game,” said Pulliam. “They lead by 10, with a score of 33 to 22.”

By the end of the third period, Sand Point started to close the gap again, with a score of 38 to 32, with King Cove still leading.

“Sand Point’s tightening it up,” said Pulliam. “Momentum swings can be significant.”

The fourth period kept spectators on the edge of their seats as the Sand Point boys gave King Cove a run for their money. With seven minutes left in the game, Sand Point tied it up with

“It was a great game,” said King Cove T-Jacks Coach Randall Newman. “At the end of the first quarter, we were up by 17 to 3. That had a lot to do with us doing things that Sand Point had never seen from us – different defense and offense. It kind of caught them off guard.”

But not for long. During the second quarter, things turned around quickly for Sand Point, as the Eagles kept nipping at the T-Jacks’ heels.

“What a first half!” Pulliam announced. “One team controls the first period. Then the other team controls the second period.”

By the end of the second quarter, King Cove was

only leading



T-Jacks Graydon Severian (#2) gets the rebound. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.



Eagles Colton Mack (#22) moving the ball up the court against T-Jacks defender Ian Samuelson.

a score of 38 to 38. Then the dance began again, as King Cove grabbed the lead back, with a score of 40 to 38. Moments later, the two teams traded the lead again.

“Here’s the shot by Anthony Webster. That just put Sand Point on top,” Pulliam announced.

The score was 41 to 40.

The two teams are known for close games.

“It’s been like that for the last five or six games now,” said Sand Point Eagles Coach Toby Sargent. “It’s

hard on the heart,” he said laughing.

“You could almost see the energy (in the stands),” AEBSD Activities Director Amy Mack said. “Most of the time, Sand Point and King Cove are family and friends. But that gets pushed aside a little bit when our kids are playing against each other. It’s fun to watch.”

“Oh, man, the crowd went crazy,” said T-Jacks Coach Newman. “Half of the bleachers were filled with King Cove fans and half with Sand Point. It was cool to see.”

With 27 seconds left on the clock, the T-Jacks Conner Samuelson got a rebound shot, edging the score up in King Cove’s favor, 43 to 41. Moments later, Graydon Severian scored another point.

“It’s a 3-point game!” Pulliam announced. “The final score is King Cove 44 to Sand Point 41. King Cove wins it, but the two teams have traded blows all season long.”

King Cove ended up in fourth place in the state championship. Sand Point took sixth place.



T-Jacks Jason Duarte (#4) lets it go for three. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.



T-Jacks senior Levi Larsen (#1) gets the rebound. Photo by Lavern Kochuten.

“It was a great game,” said T-Jacks Coach Randall Newman. “The boys made great shots at the end of the game. They played great defense, and they pulled it out.”

While Coach Newman was excited about the T-Jacks’ win, the victory was a little bitter-sweet.

“We have three guys (seniors Conner Samuelson, Levi Larsen and Robert Christiansen) who are officially done playing high school basketball,” he said. “The season’s over, so that’s a little sad. But I’m excited (about the outcome of the championship game).”

Sand Point Eagles senior Evan Wilson also played the last game of his high school basketball career.

“He really stepped it up,” said Eagles Coach Toby Sargent.

“They (the T-Jacks) were double and triple teaming him, and

he did a really god job handling that.”



The two teams, joined by the AEBSD Superintendent, pose together in celebration of a great game and season in front of King Cove and Sand Point family members and friends at the Alaska Airlines Center in Anchorage. Photo by Ernie Weiss.

“Congratulations to King Cove,” said KSDP announcer Austin Roof. “Both teams walk away with bragging rights for some of the best basketball we’ve seen in the Aleutians East Borough in years.”

For Sand Point, this is the first time in 15 years that the Eagles made it to the state tournament.

“For the Eagles to go from that, to being sixth in the state, that’s just phenomenal,” Sargent said.

“I predict both teams will be back here at the state championship next year,” said Pulliam. “That was great, quality basketball.”

Highlights from SWAMC:

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski Shares Successes on Energy, Interior Appropriations Committees

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski joined SWAMC’s (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference) annual meeting earlier this month via Skype to highlight some of the recent accomplishments reached both on the U.S. Senate Energy Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as well as the Appropriations Interior and Environment Subcommittee, both of which she chairs.



U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski joined SWAMC’s annual meeting earlier this month via Skype to highlight recent accomplishments.

renewable energy is also very important.

“We’ve had some good success with funding for water and sewer grants, increases in low energy housing assistance program funding, weatherization assistance funding, as well as our PILT payments (payments in lieu of taxes) for essential services,” said Murkowski.

Getting a commitment from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture last year to purchase \$30,000 worth of canned salmon is another success that she’s proud of. However, she said highlighting the opportunities for innovation in the area of

“I know full well that the energy costs that you pay out in the region are sky-high and not sustainable in most of your communities,” she said.

Murkowski summarized a recent field hearing in Bethel, which included five other senate colleagues from several states, U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Alaska Governor Walker. The spotlight centered on rural energy needs and what the U.S. can learn from Alaska.

“We focused on what we’re doing in the State of Alaska, where we have some of the highest energy costs and yet how we’re being innovative,” she said. “We talked about how we’re working together to create these micro-grids where we can harness the power of wind,” she said. “Combine that with some storage and it really can work to make a difference. It was an opportunity for my colleagues to see not only some of the energy challenges that we face, but what life is like in remote communities not accessible by road.”



Murkowski also discussed a major energy bill that she’s been working on for about a year. She

“I know full well that the energy costs that you pay out in the region are sky-high and not sustainable in most of your communities,” Sen. Lisa Murkowski told attendees at the annual SWAMC meeting.



Sen. Murkowski also discussed a major energy bill that she’s been working on for about a year.

said a couple of the provisions include hydro licensing, relicensing and streamlining that will help cut development costs. The senator expressed her enthusiasm regarding news this month that the U.S. Department of Energy approved a \$1.54 million grant for the Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC).

“This is for a river current device that they have installed at Igiugig,” she said. “This is going to allow that community to be able to power about one third of its energy needs from the river itself.”

Murkowski said we are pioneering out in this area, as well as others, which creates opportunities to help small remote communities get off of diesel.

“For you out in the Aleutians, you should know that ORPC, the same company that’s working in Igiugig, is seeking an additional grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to install a tidal system at False Pass that could help power a large fish processing plant. Within our energy bill, we have authorizations for grant funding to help with these technologies, whether it’s river or tidal technology.”

Murkowski said there’s also a provision within the bill that would allow the Department of Energy to make low-cost loans to state energy programs to help build out the more conventional renewable projects, such as wind and solar.

“It will help replace the state’s renewable energy fund,” she said. “We know with the state’s budget issues, these are real considerations for us. However, we can facilitate these projects at the federal level and that’s really going to be key going forward. We also have funding for geothermal energy research and development that could help out there in Akutan and in Unalaska. We have dozens of provisions to promote energy efficiency.”

In addition, Murkowski said the energy committee has also worked to provide and promote aid for micro-grid systems.

“If we can advance this bill, I think one of the things you’ll see in southwest Alaska is these efforts to help stabilize and bring down costs of energy within the region.”

The senator also mentioned another passion of hers – getting a road built from King Cove to the all-weather airport in Cold Bay.

“Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was before my committee in energy and in Interior Appropriations recently. In both of those forums, I asked her, “Where is your promise to help the people of King Cove? When you denied them the opportunity for a road two years ago, you promised that you were going to be there to help them. There’s nothing in this President’s budget that demonstrates that you were there to provide help. Show me how you’re helping the people of King Cove because everything (non-road alternatives) that they have proposed thus far has been unaffordable, inaccessible and just not reasonable. So we’re going to continue to push for the good folks of King Cove.”

Governor Walker, Legislators Discuss Alaska’s Budget Crisis and other Key Issues

Governor Bill Walker also addressed the SWAMC audience, focusing on a number of challenging issues the state of Alaska faces. Like Senator Murkowski, Governor Walker said he would also like to see a solution for the King Cove road issue.

“If there was an award for such a thing, I would receive an award for having the most meetings with Interior Secretary Jewell within a short period of time,” he quipped. “I met with her five times in three or four days recently at the National Governors’



Alaska Gov. Bill Walker addresses attendees at the SWAMC meeting.

Association. I can't say that we're any closer on that issue. But I keep meeting with her. We'll get there. When the dust settles, we'll get that road built."

Another topic of statewide concern is Alaska's growing budget deficit. Governor Walker and the Alaska legislature are hoping they'll soon be closer to reaching an agreement on how to close a nearly four billion dollar shortfall as they grapple with cutting the size of government and consider other revenue generators.

"I want to make sure that you know how important rural Alaska is to this administration," he said. "We're not going to balance a budget on the backs of rural Alaskans. What we're trying to decide in Juneau is what kind of Alaska do we want? Are we going to take away opportunities from the young people? That's the biggest concern I have. We want to make sure that we're proud of the Alaska that we have and figure out how we're going to pay for it. Alaska doesn't have a wealth problem. We have a cash flow problem. We have to change how we use our wealth so we can resolve this."



"I want to make sure you know how important rural Alaska is to this administration," Gov. Walker said. "We're not going to balance a budget on the backs of rural Alaskans."

Alaska Department of Revenue Commissioner Randall Hoffbeck outlined Governor Walker's plan for resolving the budget crisis at SWAMC's meeting.



AK Department of Revenue Commissioner Randall Hoffbeck outlined Gov. Walker's plan for resolving the budget crisis.

"We have an annual draw of about 5.2 to 5.4 billion dollars in unrestricted funds," Commissioner Hoffbeck explained. The problem is we only have about 1.6 billion dollars coming in and a 3.8 billion dollar deficit. To put that into context, there's a little more than ten million dollars a day that we go into the red. During the time that I talk to you today – less than an hour – we'll go about \$400,000 more into the hole. That's how big that number really is."

Hoffbeck said there are a lot of things we need to do that would save us \$250,000 here

and \$100,000 there, but we need a bigger plan than that.

“We simply cannot solve a 4-billion dollar issue by chipping away at the edges,” he said.

Hoffbeck said if the state does nothing and we continue to spend from the permanent fund earnings, we’ll be out of money within about two years.

“Then we fall off this fiscal cliff,” he said.

The public provided feedback to the governor and staff after numerous meetings were held across the state regarding the governor’s plan to address the budget deficit.

“The message was clear that we needed to cut government further, but the public wants to protect essential services,” Hoffbeck said. “The second thing they said was that it’s alright to use some permanent fund earnings, but not the corpus of the fund. They don’t want us to spend their children’s and grandchildren’s futures. They also said we need to preserve some form of a dividend program because it’s very important to the state’s economy.”



“We simply cannot solve a 4-billion dollar budget deficit by chipping away at the edges,” Commissioner Randall Hoffbeck said.

Hoffbeck said during these public hearings, they also heard people say they are accepting of new revenues, a code word for taxes, as long as they aren’t supporting an over-size government. There are seven existing taxes the governor has proposed increasing: mining, fishing, tourism, alcohol, tobacco, oil & gas and a new one – a personal income tax. It would amount to 6 percent of residents’ federal liability.

“It retains all of the exemptions and all of the credits embedded

within the federal income tax and the progressivity,” he explained.

Hoffbeck said for most people, this would be less than one percent of residents’ gross income.

“The first person that’s going to pay one percent of their income is the single filing taxpayer making \$100,000 a year. That person would pay \$1,000 in taxes. A family of four making \$50,000 would pay \$47 in state taxes. If you get much below that, you’re not going to pay any state taxes,” he said.

Hoffbeck said if it's enacted, Alaska would have the lowest state income tax in the country for those states with an income tax.

"We're the only state that doesn't have either a statewide income tax or a sales tax. We're simply going to look a little bit like everybody else."

Rep. Bryce Edgmon of House District 37 said if he had to predict, he thinks there will be some form of an endowment similar to the governor's plan that will get accepted by the legislature.

"I don't know about taxes," he said. "I think major broad-based taxes are off the table this session."

Rep. Edgmon indicated that income taxes or sales taxes would probably be a tough sell during an election year.

"We may get to the sin taxes (alcohol and tobacco)," he said. "Oil taxes are also something we have to take up."

Both Edgmon and Rep. Louise Stutes of House District 32 are concerned that rural Alaska will feel the brunt of budget cuts.

"If there's something that keeps me awake at night, it's knowing that cuts to ASMI (Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute), the Alaska Energy Authority,



Alaska Rep. Bryce Edgmon (HB 37) predicts the legislature will accept some form of an endowment similar to the governor's plan.



"We're all doing our very best to make sure there's some balance on both sides," said Alaska Rep. Louise Stutes (HB 32).

community revenue sharing, benefits to energy assistance – you name it – all of those cuts are going to have a cumulative effect on the smaller communities, and that's pretty sobering."

"We understand how it seems like these cuts usually fall on rural Alaska," Rep. Stutes said. "We're all paying attention. We're all doing our very best to make sure there's some balance on both sides. Just know that your legislators are paying attention because it's going to be a bumpy road."

Hoffbeck said the state needs to act now to solve the budget deficit before Alaska's credit rating is downgraded further.

"We need to start thinking differently, and we need to start doing government differently," he said. "We'd still get a dividend. We'd be growing our savings, and we'd provide most of the government services people currently have. The reality is, we really can solve this problem, and we can solve this problem in one year."

ADF&G's Commissioner and the NPFMC Chairman Tackle the Topic of Salmon and Halibut Bycatch

Salmon and halibut bycatch controls within the Alaska commercial fishing industry continue to be a high priority both at the state and the federal level. North Pacific Fishery Management Council Chairman Dan Hull and Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commissioner Sam Cotten outlined the developments in recent years at SWAMC's annual meeting with regard to bycatch.

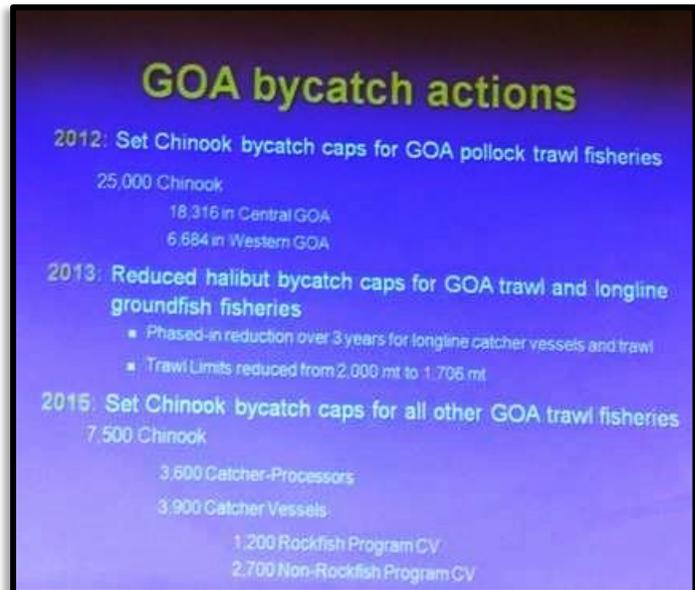
"The Council has taken many actions with various fishing sectors to minimize bycatch while also allowing the prosecution of the nation's largest groundfish fisheries," said Cotten. "Species taken in bycatch,



NPFMC Chairman Dan Hull discussed bycatch at the SWAMC meeting.

such as halibut and salmon, are very important to all Alaskans, so the Department of Fish and Game continues to lead efforts at the Council that will further minimize bycatch of these critical species."

"We have spent a considerable effort on understanding, attempting to reduce bycatch and trying to improve management programs so that, at the same time, we're also optimizing the groundfish fisheries," said Hull. "We have done that, in partnership with various industry sectors, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the regional office, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and many stakeholder groups."



Cotten said bycatch of Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries peaked in 2010 at 55,000 fish. In response to that, the Council established bycatch caps for Chinook salmon more than two years ago. The cap was 25,000 for the pollock fishery and 7,500 for the non-trawl fisheries.



ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten.

“While there is a number cap, the pollock fleet has an incentive never to exceed that lower threshold because of the risk that by doing so in two of the seven years, the upper cap is removed and lower cap would then be applied,” said Hull.

The Council chairman explained that the program is designed to account for uncertainty and unpredictability in encounters with Chinook. Hull said in addition, the sectors that operate under the incentive plan agreements allow vessels and companies to determine the best approach to monitor

their bycatch to define penalties and to provide incentives to improve behavior.

“This approach of involving some management responsibility with the industry combined with guidance from the council and agencies, I think, is a desirable way generally for the council to work together,” Hull said. “However, given that bycatch is being taken currently well below that lower threshold cap, it’s critical to make sure that those incentives and plan agreements are really effective.”

Cotten explained that since the Council took this action, the total Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries has declined, ranging from about 16,000 to 23,000 fish per year.

“Full retention of trawl chinook salmon is now required in all trawl fisheries,” Cotten explained, “and this supports sampling to identify stock origin of the bycatch. We received genetic stocks of origin reports annually from both the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea trawl fisheries.”

Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Halibut bycatch actions

- June 2015: Council reduced PSC limits for all groundfish sectors in BSAI
- New limits will be effective in 2016

	Current PSC limit	PSC limit reduction	New PSC limit
Amendment 80 cooperatives (catcher processors targeting flatfish, rockfish, Alaska mackerel, Pacific cod)	2,325 mt	-25%	1,745 mt
BSAI trawl limited access fisheries (pollock fishery, Pacific cod catcher vessel fishery)	875 mt	-15%	745 mt
Longline fisheries (mostly Pacific cod catcher processors)	833 mt	-15%	710 mt
CDQ fisheries	393 mt	-20%	315 mt
TOTAL	4,426 mt	-21%	3,515 mt

Cotten said the latest genetic studies from the Chinook bycatch in the Gulf show that about one-quarter of the fish are Alaska fish and about three-quarters are from British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

“The largest portion of the Alaska fish are from the southeast, the Taku, the Stikine and some of the other big systems down there,” he said.

Cotten said there’s also been action on halibut bycatch recently as ongoing declines in both the total and exploitable halibut biomass in the Gulf of Alaska have exacerbated concerns about the level of bycatch in the groundfish fisheries.



“This year’s stock assessment for halibut indicates a more stable biomass involved in some Gulf areas, including 3B,” Commissioner Cotten said.

“This year’s stock assessment for halibut indicates a more stable biomass involved and even slight increases in some Gulf areas, including 3B,” he said.

Cotten explained that a couple years ago, halibut bycatch reduction measures were put in place in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. The first phase went into place in 2014, and went into full effect with a 15 percent reduction starting this year. That reduction amounted to

650,000 pounds of halibut.

“At the same time the Council took action, it also considered the groundfish fisheries that use halibut as bycatch in the communities that those groundfish fisheries support, such as Sand Point, King Cove, Kodiak and Unalaska. All fishing sectors in the Gulf of Alaska are dependent on and are affected by the health of the halibut stock. Commercial halibut fishermen, charter fishermen and groundfish fishermen catch halibut incidentally.”

Cotten said in an environment in which total biomass of halibut is decreasing, the Council is continuing to balance the need to minimize bycatch with the desire to attempt to achieve optimum yield in groundfish fisheries that also support our coastal communities.

Gulf rationalization is another controversial topic the Council is considering. Cotten said there are a package of amendments and alternatives currently before the Council which include proposals to allocate target species and/or prohibited species to harvesters and a recommendation to move into coops in an effort to minimize bycatch.

“The state continues to have a strong interest and concern about any new management program that may move forward,” Cotten said. “We continue to be concerned about impacts on local economies, and we continue to be concerned about fishing access rights being available to residents of our coastal communities. While many in the trawl sector see a benefit to a permanent leaseable, sellable set of fishing rights, many community leaders have expressed concerns about the communities taking on all the risks of unknown consequences of these actions.”

The Council is going to review a draft environmental impact statement later in the year to further vet these proposals.

Cotten said dramatic declines in the exploitable halibut biomass in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands have been a growing concern. Those concerns came to a head in 2015 when

catch limits proposed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for the commercial halibut fishing around the Pribilof Islands were so low, it appeared questionable as to whether there would even be a fishery. Last year, the Council took final action to reduce the Bering Sea halibut bycatch by 20 percent.



Cotten said as far as Bering Sea salmon, the statewide decline in productivity of Chinook salmon continues to be a major concern.

“We also combined with the Chinook program, measures for chum salmon,” NPFMC Chairman Dan Hull said.

“Chinook salmon are an essential part of subsistence, sport and commercial harvest in Alaska,” Cotten said. “While evidence does not suggest that bycatch is a primary factor in the decline, we still need to insure that we are conservatively managing all removals that otherwise contribute to escapement in years which it is absolutely critical to get salmon on the spawning grounds.”

Cotten said there have been several management measures to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch over the years. He said the most notable was the first hard cap in the Bering Sea pollock fishery in 2011.

“We continue to try to refine the programs as strong as they can be when Chinook salmon abundance is historically low,” Cotten explained.

“We also combined with the Chinook program, measures for chum salmon,” Hull said. “The changes to the incentive plan requirements include more strict reductions or measures in September and October, which are times of the year when, if the fleets had been taking less and were well under their caps, they may not have the incentive to continue to do as much as they could. Lower bycatch caps would be instituted in years of lower Chinook abundance based on the three river index (Unalakleet, Yukon and Kuskokwim).”

Hull said the Council will continue to work on these comprehensive issues at the upcoming April meeting.

Possible Methods of Bringing Broadband to the Aleutians

If you live in the Aleutians or the south Alaska Peninsula, you know how frustrating it is when it feels like the Internet is moving at a snail’s pace compared to what it is in Anchorage or other areas served by high-speed Internet systems.



Sand Point City Administrator Andy Varner discusses ways of getting faster Internet speeds to the Aleutians and the south Alaska Peninsula.

“Who has had trouble sending documents over email – even a one megabyte PDF?” Sand Point Administrator Andy Varner asked the audience at the annual SWAMC meeting earlier this month.

A number of hands went up.

“Who gets timed out of task when you want to do mobile banking, financial reporting, or a grant application?” he prodded.

Again, multiple hands shot up from the audience.

“Who, in rural Alaska, would like to video conference or watch the legislature when they’re streaming committee hearings?” Varner continued to ask. “Who would just like to stream anything? What can we do in the Aleutians? Let’s start the conversation and do something about it.”

Varner assisted in getting the ball rolling on this concept after he and others helped form the Aleutian Fiber taskforce in the fall of 2015. A working group of entities, comprised of Aleutian communities, such as the Aleutians East Borough, the AEBSB, the Aleut Corporation, SWAMC, APICDA and Eastern Aleutian Tribes, met a few times during the past several months to figure out what can be done to bring high-speed Internet to the region.

During his presentation, Varner shared 2014 maps from the Alaska Broadband Task Force.

“It’s sort of the status of what broadband services look like all over Alaska,” Varner explained. “Not really much has changed on that map except up near Kotzebue, there’s a fiber running up to the Red Dog Mine. GCI has expanded its TERRA (a hybrid land-based fiber-optic and microwave network linked to Anchorage) network up to Kotzebue and around the west.”

The map also showed a fiber line Quintillion is planning to build, extending into five or six different Arctic communities.



“When the Alaska Broadband Taskforce mapped out this system, they based it on a goal of 100 megabits per second speed to every household in Alaska. They came up with a price tag of \$1.5 billion. That was a hefty goal, and there’s nothing wrong with setting a big goal. So the challenge for my presentation is to look at the Aleutians.”

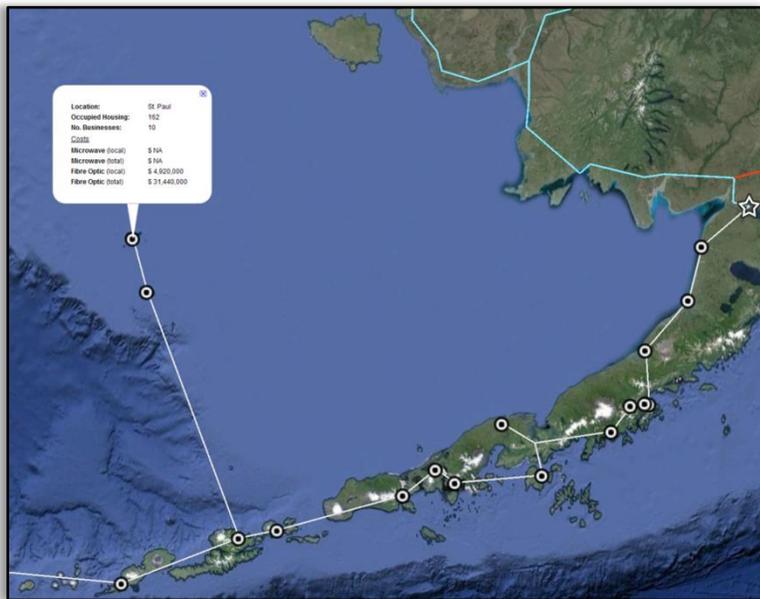
Varner said the task force used a team of UAF researchers to see what it would take to deliver that same 100 megabits per second to every home. Going out to Unalaska, for example, would come with a price tag of about 72 million dollars using pure fiber.

“Taking from that pure fiber network in Unalaska up to the Pribilof Islands, based on their goal, is about 31 million dollars,” he said.

Varner suggested examining such a project on a smaller scale with perhaps a 10 or 20 megabit per second connection.

“You could watch Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Game of Thrones,” he said. “You could Facetime, do gaming. You could do all those things. We could do some of those business tasks that we talked about at the beginning – those tasks that we all raised our hands on. Those things become a reality with just a 10 or 20 megabit per second connection.”

Varner said increasing Internet speed could help to improve health care, public safety and would help the seafood processing community in the region.



“It’s pretty transformational,” he said. “All of these seafood processors are behind the eight ball compared to their counterparts elsewhere because they don’t have modern communications. This would make a huge difference for anyone doing business. Fiber could start to bring a lot of differences.”

So how do we get there? Varner discussed how Quintillion is using private capital investment for its project in the Arctic. He said often, for these bigger projects, it’s a mixture of public and private funds.

However, with the state’s budget crisis, it’s unlikely any funding will come from the legislature this year.

“The E-Rate is something we could potentially take advantage of,” Varner suggested.

The E-Rate is the commonly used name for the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, which is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).



“The E-Rate is something we could potentially take advantage of,” Varner said.

“So our schools in the Aleutians East Borough, for instance, have a 10 megabit per second connection,” said Varner, “and the school is usually the fastest connection in town. In the AEBSD’s case, the FCC picked up 80 percent of the cost. The local government and the school district are responsible for the other 20 percent.”

Varner explained that in 2014, the FCC passed a modernization order to help close the gap in rural connectivity, which allows funding for special construction. The first round of applications for special construction of fiber using the E-Rate will begin next month.

“So we’ll see what kind of projects get funded,” he said. “The kicker is if you get matching money from your state legislature, the FCC would cover as much as 90 percent of it. But it doesn’t seem very likely that we could get 10 percent from the legislature for a 60 million dollar project -- maybe five years ago, but probably not now.”

Varner said this is where the Aleutians have to be a little bit more creative and talk about partnerships. He said if fiber is just too big of an ‘ask,’ it might be worthwhile to look at fiber microwave and remain agnostic in terms of providers.



“I think this is a way for the region to form some sort of consortium or alliance where we can take control of what we want the system to look like. We’ve looked into the avenue of developing a port authority in the Aleutians, in case we need to do bonding or financing for that 10 or 20 percent match, assuming there are no state dollars.”

Varner said if this was something the region wanted to do, the group of communities and entities could target the next E-Rate season, which is April 2017.

“That gives us a full year of planning,” he said. “The bottom line is for a project of this size, there is no silver bullet or easy path. I think we form this group, an Aleutian consortium or Aleutian Port Authority, and we look for help from telecom experts and a legal expert. I think we can get there. I think now is the time to start dreaming and start doing. I would love to see this happen.”

The Warming Ocean's Algal Blooms and the Growing Threat of PSP in the Region

A well-known Alaska scientist is predicting another large paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) event this summer due to warming oceans. The 2015 season ushered in a perfect storm for harmful algal blooms (HABs) and PSP. Bruce Wright, Senior Scientist for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), discussed events that occurred along the U.S. west coast, and specifically in the Aleutians region, in 2015.



Bruce Wright, Senior Scientist for APIA, is predicting another large PSP event this summer due to warming oceans.

“Last year, it was pretty dramatic,” Wright said.

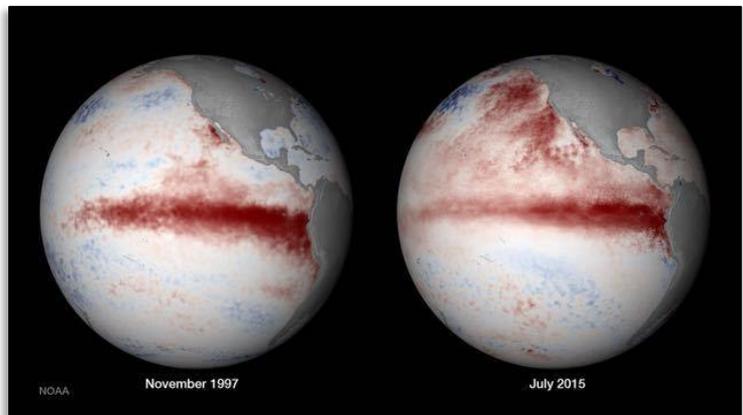
High pressure built up over the west coast of the United States, slowed down the mixing currents off the coast of California, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska, all the way down to 300 feet in the ocean with some areas seeing 8 degrees Fahrenheit above normal.

“So the waters warmed up in what was called the blob, and there was a series of blobs. That promoted fast blooms of *Pseudo-nitzschia* (the harmful algal that makes the toxin domoic acid) and *Alexandrium*, the

organism that makes PSP.”

Wright said lower marine water mixing also allowed for nutrients in the water column to be depleted. The low nutrient levels promoted the HABs organisms to flourish.

“There were offshore breezes that pushed these large blooms of *Pseudo-nitzschia* up against the beaches in



“So the waters warmed up in what was called the blob, and there was a series of blobs,” Wright said, describing events that occurred last year.

Washington, Oregon and California, concentrating the toxins to levels where they had to close fisheries. Sea lions were becoming sick and were dying, and a bunch of birds were dying from domoic acid (a neurotoxin produced by the marine phytoplankton, Pseudo-nitzschia). Lucky for us, this did not happen in the Gulf of Alaska. However, the PSP events did happen all along the Gulf of Alaska.”

Wright said the temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska reached 64 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees



Wright said marine life, such as whales, sea lions and fish are at risk from harmful algal blooms.

Celsius) in some areas – the perfect conditions for these organisms. The blooms have the potential to destroy large zooplankton and remove that part of the food chain. Wright said marine life is at risk from harmful algal blooms, including sea lions, seals, sea otters, whales, marine birds and fish, first from toxicity and secondly

from starvation.

“If we do (have another bad year for PSP and domoic acid), that produces the toxins that take out the zooplankton,” he explained. “When the zooplankton isn’t there, the forage base is disrupted, and then you get a bunch of dead murrelets washing up on the beach in the fall. This danger can travel all the way up the food chain to humans when they eat contaminated clams or other shellfish. Or, fishermen may end up with empty nets.”



“When the zooplankton isn’t there, the forage base is disrupted and you get a bunch of dead murrelets washing up on the beach in the fall,” Wright said.

“Mussels in Haines last year hit 21,600 micrograms per 100 grams, setting a state PSP record. That means



APIA Scientist Bruce Wright digs up a baby butter clam from the beach in Sand Point while searching for large clams.

that one mussel could probably take out three or four guys,” Wright said. (The FDA limit for PSP is 80 micrograms/100 grams.) “Sand Point set the record last year in Alaska with butter claims. It was 6,580,”

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation tests commercial oysters, so they are considered safe to eat. However, Wright said subsistence and personal use of clams, mussels and other shellfish are not tested, making consuming these risky.

Wright recommends specific techniques for subsistence and personal use so they can be eaten [safely](#). Meanwhile, Wright said it's important to look at other species as well.

“A recent paper discusses HABs in Alaska marine mammals,” he said. “They found domoic acid (a neurotoxin) and PSP in marine mammals in all of our oceans and seas. So it's all the way up into the Arctic Ocean. It's just a matter of having the right conditions to have major blooms. I think with time, the warming waters will create perfect conditions for HABs in the Bering Sea. Can you imagine the consequences of major PSP and domoic acid events in the Bering Sea?”

Wright said the blob has dissipated, and we're at the end of the largest El Nino event ever. However, he anticipates it will be warm again next summer, which would probably usher in another big PSP event.

“So that's my prediction for next year and into the future,” Wright said. “more PSP and domoic acid.”

Eastern Aleutian Tribes - Update



William Dushkin's presentation at the Eldercare Services Summit – February 2015.



Presentation by CHRs at the Eldercare Services Summit (Esther, Katie, Amanda, Karen and Lora)

Service

- **Adak - Upcoming Services:**
 - March 6 – 17th – MG Moore, BH Clinician
 - April 14 – 17th – EAT Board Meeting
- **Akutan - Upcoming Services:**
 - No services scheduled at this time



- **Cold Bay - Upcoming Services:**
 - No services scheduled at this time
- **False Pass - Upcoming Services:**
 - May 16 – 18th – Dr. Leoncio, SCF Village Doc
- **King Cove - Upcoming Services:**
 - February 27 – March 4th – Dr. Koehler
 - March 11 – April 5th - Dr. Costa, Dentist, and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
 - March 28 – April 1st – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
 - April 18 – 23rd – SCF Village Doc, Dr. Saunders
- **Nelson Lagoon - Upcoming Services:**
 - March 19 – 26th - Ben Steward, DHAT
- **Sand Point - Upcoming Services:**
 - February 22 – March 4th - Dr. Costa, Dentist, and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
 - April 18 – 23rd – SCF Dentist
 - April 25 – 29th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
 - April 25 – 29th – SCF Village Doc, Dr. Hartman
 - April 26-28th – ANTHC Oncology (cancer) Doctor – Dr. Olnes
- April 27th – Potluck with presentations by Dr. Hartman on Opioid treatments and Dr. Olnes on Oncology/cancer
- **Whittier - Upcoming Services**
 - March 6 – 11th - Dr. Costa, Dentist, and Gaby Costa, Asst.
 - March 7 – 9th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
- Caught Ya' Caring Winners for January:
 - **Carol Harris** (Billing Manager, Anchorage) – She found out that an important report was due at the last minute and worked hard to make sure it got submitted by the deadline.
 - **Bonita Babcock** (CHAP, King Cove) – You can tell that Bon is doing exactly what she loves to do when you see her walk in the door in the morning. She is always happy to see her patients and they are equally as happy to see her!



People

- Welcome our New Hires:
 - **Bonnie Mack**, Intermittent Janitor , King Cove (first day January 1st)
 - **Dr. Melodie Isgro**, Behavioral Health Manager, Anchorage (first day July 18th)
- Open Positions:

- **Behavioral Health Aides/CHR*** – Akutan (An itinerant is working in Akutan, but she could help other villages if we could fill this position with a full-time person.)
 - **Clinical Information Clerk (CIC)/Janitor*** - Akutan
 - **Community Health Aides*** – Adak and Nelson Lagoon
 - **CIC/Community Health Representative (CHR)*** – Akutan
 - **House Coordinator/Behavioral Health Aide (BHA)*** – Sand Point
 - **Immersive Learning and Education Program Manager** – Any Site
 - **Janitor (intermittent)*** - Adak
 - **Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant** – Adak, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for Itinerants
 - **Physician** – King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for itinerants
 - **Planning and Development Manager** – Any Site
- *Note: No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

- Promotions:
 - **Trisha Trumble** was promoted to the **Health Benefits Coordinator** position along with her existing duties. She will be traveling to clinics to help sign patients up for insurance.

Report on Events:

- On February 17-19, 2016 EAT partnered with APIA to host the Eldercare Services Summit.
- Pictures:



Esther Bennett, Katie Johnson, and Amanda Morgan (CHR presentation)



Adak Work Group – Esther Bennett, Mike Eickoff, and Thomas Mack



False Pass/Nelson Lagoon Work Group – Amanda Morgan, Katie Johnson, Edgar Smith, and Mellisa Heflin (ANTHC)



King Cove Work Group – Robert Gould, Linda Mack, Maggie Samuelson, Simeon Kuzakin, Lora Mack, Kathy Bear, and Robin Gould



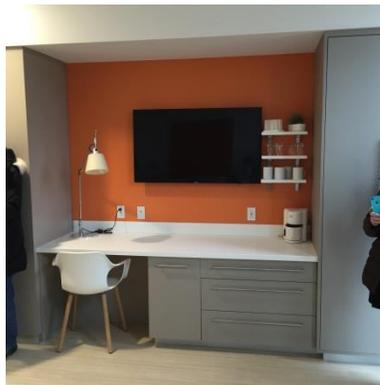
Sand Point Work Group – David Osterback, Ariel Gunderson, Marilyn Dushkin, William Dushkin, Karen Kalmakoff, Mary Ann Mobeck, Rosie Holmberg, and Brenda Hammermeister

On February 26, 2016, I attended the Medical Services Networking Committee on behalf of EAT.

Highlights:

- The committee recommended that ANTHC research the feasibility of establishing a **state-wide after-hours triage line** to support the clinic staff members.
- I went on a **tour of the new Quyana House lodging** and saw an example room. See pictures below.
- We received a warning that con artists are calling people around the State and telling people that they are the IRS and that you need to pay them with your credit/debit card. The IRS will never call you.
- Top Four **Causes of Death** in 2012 in Alaska
 - **Tobacco use** (573)
 - **Suicide** (167)
 - **Liver Disease/Cirrhosis** (89)
 - **Motor Vehicle Accident** (73)

Pictures of new Quyana House lodging near Anchorage Native Medical Center (ANMC):





Tips to reduce your risk for heart disease.



Maintain a Healthy Weight



Make Healthy Food Choices



Stay Active



Stop Smoking



Know Your Diabetes ABCs Talk to your health care team about how to manage your A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol. This will help lower your chances of having a heart attack, a stroke, or other diabetes problems.

TOO MUCH CHOLESTEROL IN YOUR BLOOD INCREASES YOUR RISK.
GET TESTED TO LEARN YOUR TOTAL CHOLESTEROL, GOOD HDL, AND BAD (LDL) CHOLESTEROL, AND TRIGLYCERIDES.

PHYSICAL INACTIVITY DOUBLES YOUR RISK, EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER RISK FACTORS.
AIM FOR 2 1/2 HOURS OF MODERATE-INTENSITY AEROBIC ACTIVITY PER WEEK.



SMOKERS ARE UP TO 6 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER HEART ATTACKS. DON'T SMOKE AND, IF YOU DO, QUIT.

HEARTTRUTH.GOV

ARE YOU AT RISK FOR HEART DISEASE?



A program of the National Institutes of Health



THE HIGHER YOUR BODY MASS INDEX (BMI), THE HIGHER YOUR RISK FOR HEART DISEASE, ESPECIALLY AT BMI 30.0.

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE GREATLY INCREASES YOUR RISK.
GET TESTED. REDUCE YOUR SODIUM INTAKE. STAY ACTIVE. MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT.



DIABETES PUTS YOU AT INCREASED RISK FOR HEART DISEASE.
YOU CAN LOWER YOUR RISK BY KEEPING YOUR BLOOD GLUCOSE CLOSE TO THE RECOMMENDED TARGET NUMBERS!

Sources: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (2008). Your guide to a healthy heart. * Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group (2002). Relationship to the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes with lifestyle intervention or metformin. New England Journal of Medicine. 356(12):1311-1321.



APICDA
Director of Seafood Operations

Company/Dept./Location: AJV/ Ops /Anch.

Job Status: Regular – FT

FLSA Status: Exempt

Reports To: CEO

Grade/Level:

Amount of Travel Required: 35%

Work Schedule: M-F (8-5), Occasional nights & weekends.

Positions Supervised: AJV-GM; CFC-Pres; AVI-Fleet Mngr.; Quota Mngr.; FPFC Mngr.; Dir. QA.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Director of Seafood Operations is supervised by the CEO and is responsible for the daily success of the Operations division of AAA/AJV. The position’s overall mission is to supervise, measure and analyze the various seafood businesses, by recommending and implementing programs and process improvements across the companies. This position will lead all seafood operations and be responsible for the overall success of quality, production and sales.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Lead and direct all areas of the seafood operations (APS; BPS; CFC; QA; FPFC and AVI fleet).
- Oversee annual budgets related to seafood operations (APS; BPS; CFC; QA; FPFC and AVI fleet).
- Communicate with CEO/CFO on all financial decisions.
- Coordinate with CEO and managers about updates, sales, policies, and standards related to quality.
- Develop operational goals for success and follow up with respective managers on results, metrics and course corrections when needed.
- Report metrics of success to CEO and Board of Directors.

- Create and foster a cohesive work environment.
- Formulate and develop policies and procedures relative to seafood operations.
- Conduct annual performance reviews on all direct reports.
- Conduct contract negotiations relative to business needs.
- Recruit vessels to harvest CDQ & IFQ quota.
- Attend fishery management meetings, trade shows, expos and industry specific conferences as appropriate.
- Other duties as assigned.

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS

Competency Statement(s)

- **Communication Skills:** Successful candidate must have excellent oral and written communications skills to project a positive image of the company. Strong communication/interpersonal skills with emphasis on decision-making, conflict management, and teambuilding and teamwork. Candidate understands that the most important aspect of communication is the act of listening and will actively work to improve those skills.
- **Dependability:** Display dependability through the support of other sections and being punctual to the appointed place of duty.
- **Accountability:** Ability to plan, organize, measure, document and coordinate multiple tasks to deliver the budget for product line, revenue and profit.
- **Problem Solving:** Ability to find a solution and proactively address work-related issues.
- **Decision Making:** Ability to make critical decisions while following company procedures.
- **Ethical:** Ability to demonstrate acceptance of APICDA values and standards.
- **Judgment:** The ability to formulate a sound decision using the available information.
- **Organization:** Must display excellent time management, as noted by determination of the appropriate allocation of time; space management as displayed by effectively managing the workspace (i.e. keeps a clean and organized office, appropriately handles all paperwork, maintains control over the physical environment, etc.); and task management through the balancing of conflicting priorities in order to manage workflow, ensure the completion of essential projects, and meet critical deadlines.
- **Team Player:** Works as a competent member of the team, willingly providing back-up support for co-workers when appropriate and actively supporting group goals.
- **Detail Oriented** - Ability to pay attention to the details of a project or task.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Education: Must have a Bachelor's degree in Fishery Management or related field preferred.

Experience: Minimum of seven (7) years of seafood management experience. Prior experience in fishing industry, native organizations, and/or corporate level experience is required. Equivalent education and training may be substituted for experience.

Other Skills

- Must have at least seven years’ experience in the processing of seafood products which must include at least four years of management experience.
- Must have a valid driver’s license and be insurable under APICDA’s insurance policy.
- Ability to learn general knowledge of APICDA communities, geographical locations, fisheries and tourism.
- Ability to deal calmly and effectively in high stress situations.
- Development and implementation of operational policies, procedures, and processes.

Work Environment:

- Requires the ability to plan, organize and delegate projects in fast paced environment.
- Must be available to work varied and extended hours.
- Requires the ability to communicate effectively at a distance with supervisor, staff, vendors, vessel operators and village residents.
- Requires stair climbing.
- Periodic lifting and carrying less than 50 pounds.
- Looking at computer monitor for extended periods of time.
- Repetitive motion with arms, hands, and fingers in workspace and on keyboard.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Salary is DOE. A full benefit package is offered, including: Medical; Dental; Vision; Life; and participation in the 401k retirement plan.

LOCATION

Preferred Anchorage office with regular travel to Seattle and Juneau.

Applications should be submitted to: hr@apicda.com

APICDA is an EEO employer.

Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share or if you'd like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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[Link to AEB's Facebook page](#)

[Link to King Cove's Facebook page](#)

